

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-SS-2-29-02

Issued at Palmer, August 14, 2002

Effective 12:01 a.m., Saturday
Date: August 17, 2002

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. December 31,
2002, unless superseded by subsequent
emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order opens Fish Creek from its mouth upstream to ADF&G markers 1/4-mile upstream from the Knik-Goose Bay Road, to fishing for all species, except king salmon 20 inches and longer, for twenty-four hour periods on Saturdays and Sundays only. The daily bag and possession limit for salmon (other than king salmon) over 16 inches in length is three fish, all of which may be coho salmon.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 61.022 (k)(5)(A) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective:

5 AAC 61.022 WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE SUSITNA-WEST COOK INLET AREA

(k)(5) in the Fish Creek drainage,

(A) the waters from ADF&G regulatory markers located at its mouth upstream to an ADF&G regulatory marker located one-quarter mile upstream from the Knik-Goose Bay Road, are open to sport fishing from 12:01 am Saturday to 11:59 pm Sunday, August 17 through December 31, except that sport fishing for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length is closed. The daily bag and possession limit for salmon over 16 inches (other than king salmon) is three fish, of which all three may be coho salmon.

Frank Rue,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Dana Sweet,
Assistant Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Coho salmon escapement into Fish Creek is counted through a weir located upstream of the sport fishery. The Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) for Fish Creek coho salmon is 1,200-4,400. As of August 12, 2002, 3,860 coho salmon had passed through the weir. Based on these weir counts, the Department is projecting a total escapement of 12,600 coho salmon. As the upper boundary of the SEG

range will be exceeded by over 125%, it is justified to extend the fishing day from 12 to 24 hours on Saturdays and Sundays and to increase the daily bag and possession limit for coho salmon to three fish. The increased coho salmon harvest as a result of this Emergency Order will not lower the escapement below the upper bound of the SEG range.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 2 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.